

DO NOT ENTER: /K.G./

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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Amendments shown by strikethrough (for deleted matter) or underlining (for added matter).

1. (Currently Amended): A nitride glass with the general formula $\alpha_x\beta_y\gamma_z$, wherein α is at least one electropositive element chosen from the group consisting of Na, K, Rb, Be, Mg, Ca, Sr, Ba, Zr, Hf, Nb, Ta, W, Mo, Cr, Fe, Co, Ni, Zn, Sc, Y, La, Pb, Bi, Ce, Pr, Nd, Sm, Eu, Gd, Tb, Dy, Mn, Ho, Er, Tm, Yb, Lu, Th, Pa and U; β comprises Si and optionally at least one element chosen from the group consisting of Si, B, Ge, Ga and Al; and γ is N together with O, wherein in an atomic ratio of O:N, where O + N equals 100, O is in the range of 20-65 and N is in the range of 35-80; whereby the nitrogen content given in an atomic ratio of O:N is higher than 65:35, wherein x, y and z are all independently > 0.

2. (Previously presented): A nitride glass according to claim 1, wherein α is chosen from the group consisting of Lu, Mg, Y, Sc, Nd, Gd, Eu, Er, Tb, Tm, Dy, Yb, Th, Pa, Ca, Sr, Ba, La, Pr, Ce, Sm, Mn and Ho.

3. (Previously presented): A nitride glass according to claim 2, wherein α is chosen from the group consisting of Ca, Sr, Ba, La, Pr, Ce, Sm, Mn and Ho.

4. (Previously presented): A nitride glass according to claim 1, wherein the ratio $\alpha:\beta$ is in the interval from 30:70 to 60:40.

5. (Previously presented): A nitride glass according to claim 1, wherein the ratio $\beta:\gamma$ is in the interval from 33:67 to 22:78.